



Travel story

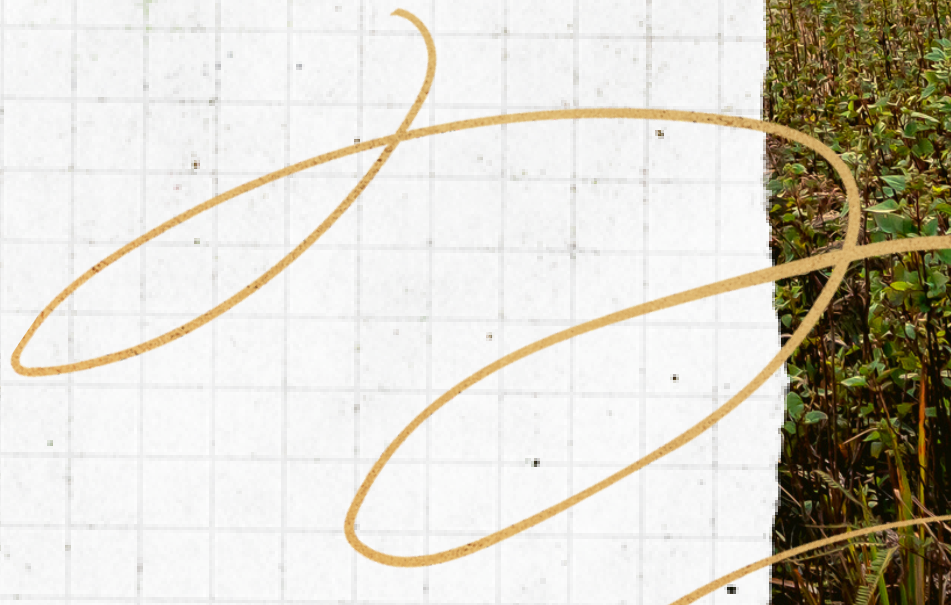
By Andrea Cabezas

That morning I remember waking up early, around 6 in the morning, I was very tired but even so when I woke up and remembered what awaited me that day I was happy. The first thing I did after washing my face was to go to the diner where my cinnamon-colored dog, Nala, was waiting for me.

She wagged her tail happily wishing me good morning, the sun had not set yet, so in the dark I went to the kitchen. I put my coffee capsule in the Nespresso machine and heated the milk in the microwave, immediately a coffee aroma spread in the kitchen and I could see through the window that the dawn began. At that moment I felt extreme happiness and was aware of what awaited me. Yawning, I went to my room and checked the suitcase. Everything was indeed there. I loaded the phone and started to dress. I didn't want to be very uncomfortable, so I put on some shorts and a top.

I forgot to say that it was summer so I was walking around the house barefoot, while my dog followed me.

The next thing I remember was feeling the wind in my face as I saw my reflection in the car's rear-view mirror. That perfect temperature of summer mornings when it's not hot yet and you can feel that mixture of wet and cold scent. When I arrived at the airport I said goodbye to my father and met my friends at the agreed point. They all had excited faces, it had been many months since we had been able to travel or leave our city, so you could feel the enthusiasm in the air. After three hours we could already see the island through the many clouds out of the window of the plane, the volcanoes and the rocky terrain.



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After landing we took the car and set off for the flat in the centre of the island, on the way we could see the weather constantly changing from the south to the centre of the island, a cloudy day turning into a sunny day. Although the flat had no lift it was quite big and well located, so we didn't complain, we dressed up and went for dinner in a very luxurious restaurant in front of the sea. It was Italian and had one of the best pastas and pizzas on the island. The fruity wine we ordered enhanced the flavours. Suddenly in the middle of dinner it started to rain and we went inside the restaurant, where we met a very nice young waiter who recommended places to visit and where to eat. At the end of his shift the waiter came to have a drink with us and we enjoyed the Canarian night dancing and singing.

The next day we set off to discover the island, starting with the endless black rocky beaches, where there were crystal clear water deposits, a spectacle when they crashed against the rocks. In addition, we were able to see the native lizards of the island that live in the rocks. The best thing was staring at the horizon thinking, and surrounded by wild nature, we were practically the only ones on the beach. The sun was rising through the clouds, leaving glimpses that reflected in the water of the sea. At that moment we felt that we were in the right place, with the right people.

We decided to visit a small and charming village for lunch, the houses were brightly coloured and surrounded by mountains that let us see landscapes full of vegetation such as cactus and native plants of arid climate. We sat on a terrace and tasted some typical dishes of the island. In the afternoon we took the car and went to a viewpoint, being a volcanic island and surrounded by mountains, to go from one village to another were hours of curves and breathtaking views, I remember being in the back seat and play a slow song in and look out the window and have a magical feeling, which enveloped my body and my soul.

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We managed to reach the viewpoint just at sunset at 3000 metres above sea level, we were above the clouds, it was very windy but the views of the horizon were so worth it, we were on a mountain lost in the clouds, living a unique moment, with goose bumps, together and at the same time separated, each one in their own universe.

In the evening we went to dinner in the south of the island, and met a group of very nice Canarian people with whom we had a drink afterwards and talked about life, they told us about their experience and what real life is like on the island, the work, the climate, legends and we also tasted typical cocktails of the island. The night ended on the beach watching the moon and bathing in the sea, thanking life for the moment we were all living together.

The next morning we had a hangover of happiness and we went to visit a currently active volcano, it was a guided tour where the guide explained the origins of the volcano, the volcanic stones and we could check by the crater of the volcano that it was really active, the colours of the lava and the smoke that came out of the mini eruption, it left us surprised. Furthermore we found out why no living things live in the volcanic area, all because of the temperature of the earth and the type of rock that does not allow life to grow.

After having a magnificent meal in volcanic soil and with many types of canarian tapas, with a lot of "mojo picon" a typical sauce of the island, we returned to the flat and as it was three o'clock in the afternoon, we decided to snorkel on the nearest beach and discover some marine fauna, we entered some caves that reminded us of those in the series mermaids of mako. The experience was wonderful and a bit terrifying that some big marine animal would come after us.



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We got up early the next day and it was clear that it would be a special day and so it was, in the morning we visited a cave located in a small village in the north, it was practically like being in the middle of the desert in the caves created by the rocks, they were made of orange rock and they were inside the mountains, it was like being in an Indiana Jones movie. In the afternoon we arrived at the Dunes, they were situated next to the beach and were very high, like those of the desert. Suddenly we found ourselves in a sea of sand with infinite mountains and watching the sunset in that magical place, feeling so small and so big at the same time. We stayed there until it got dark and we could see the starry night of the canaries.

After the evening we sat back in the flat and had dinner thinking how lucky we had been to be able to experience this, and talked for hours about what we had enjoyed the most, how we had felt and how sad we were to have to leave. The conversation was joined by a few bottles of wine and some snacks that made the night one of the most unforgettable because of the people we were with, friends who shared their experiences, anecdotes and talked about life.

Finally we came to many conclusions, but one of them is how can it be that we are so insignificant in this world, so immense and so full of millions of people that we will surely never meet, so many wonderful places that we will never get to see, so many countries and precious cultures that share the wonders of the economy, the landscapes and the customs. What a coincidence to coincide in this life with certain people in particular and not to coincide with millions of others, because certain people come into our lives? They come to teach us? how to choose a place to live in the world if there are so many places that are so beautiful ?